

Vermont Emergency Medical Services District #3  
Protocol – Medical/Traumatic Arrest  
October 13, 2005

Patients encountered without pulse and respirations (cardiopulmonary arrest) shall be expeditiously transported to the nearest emergency department. Exceptions to this protocol include of the following conditions and/or circumstances:

- Decapitation
- Decomposition
- Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Order
  - (Note well: DNR means do not initiate CPR (ventilation or compression), defibrillation, advanced airway techniques (CombiTube), resuscitation drugs or other resuscitation measures. It does NOT affect other EMS care. Comfort care measures may include positioning, temperature & environmental control, oral or nasal airways, suctioning, splinting, oxygen, IVs, assisted medications, etc. Seek on-line medical direction for all cases involving DNR orders. Obtain physical copy of DNR order with physician signature present.)
- Incineration beyond recognition
- Rigor mortis
- Significant blunt trauma
  - (Note well: patients in cardiopulmonary arrest in the setting of blunt trauma shall be assessed; and the findings of said assessment will be communicated to on-line medical direction via radio, telephone or cell phone immediately for the determination of continued resuscitation and transport. Every possible effort shall be made by first responders to facilitate immediate communications with on-line medical direction.)

**APPROVED 10/13/05**

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